

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-2. Canceled

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 21, wherein the text string comprises a "from" address.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 21, wherein the text string includes a "from" address and a text string other than the "from" address.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 21, wherein the text string includes a "from" address and an "urgent" flag.

6-7 Canceled

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, ~~wherein the outcome comprises~~ further including the step of forwarding the message to an addressee.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ 21, further including the step of the server receiving a description of the predetermined outcome criteria ~~and the outcome from the at least one computer one of the plurality of computers.~~

10-12. Canceled

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~12~~ 22, wherein the program code further includes code for activating an annunciator if the e-mail message meets the predetermined outcome criteria.

14. Canceled

15. (Currently amended) A method for interacting with a client computer and setting outcome criteria and outcome instructions in an e-mail server connected to the client computer, the method comprising:

logging in to the e-mail server with a user-name;
receiving a configuration page from the e-mail server;
entering the outcome criteria into the configuration page;
entering ~~the outcome instructions~~, an instruction for activating an annunciator, into the configuration page; and
submitting the configuration page to the e-mail server.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome criteria comprises a "from" address.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome criteria includes a text string.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome criteria includes an "urgent" flag.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the outcome instructions include the address of an addressee for receiving the e-mail message.

21. (New) In a system comprising an e-mail server and at least one computer connected to the server, a method for alerting a user to the receipt in an e-mail server of an e-mail message having predetermined contents comprising the steps of:

receiving the e-mail message in the server;

storing the e-mail message in a mailbox corresponding to the user;
scanning the e-mail message stored in the mailbox to determine if a text string within the e-mail message meets a predetermined outcome criteria; and
activating an annunciator if the text string meets the predetermined outcome criteria.

22. (New) A system comprising an e-mail server and at least one computer connected to the server, the server comprising:
a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and
a processor for executing the program code stored in said memory, wherein the program code includes code for receiving the e-mail message; storing the e-mail message in a mailbox corresponding to a user; scanning the e-mail message stored in the mailbox to determine if a text string within the e-mail message meets a predetermined outcome criteria; and activating an annunciator if the text string meets the predetermined outcome criteria.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the server receives a description of the predetermined outcome criteria from the at least one computer.

24 (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the annunciator provides a visual alert.

25. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the annunciator provides an audio alert.